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Agenda item 81
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-first session

Draft resolution

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-first session

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-first session,[1]

Emphasizing the importance of furthering the progressive development of international law and its codification as a means of implementing the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[2]

Recognizing the desirability of referring legal and drafting questions to the Sixth Committee, including topics that might be submitted to the International Law Commission for closer examination, and of enabling the Sixth Committee and the Commission to enhance further their contribution to the progressive development of international law and its codification,

Recalling the need to keep under review those topics of international law which, given their new or renewed interest for the international community, may be suitable for the progressive development and codification of international law and therefore may be included in the future programme of work of the International Law Commission,

Reaffirming the importance to the successful work of the International Law Commission of the information provided by Member States concerning their views and practice,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/64/10).

[2] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

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Recognizing the importance of the work of the special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission,

Recalling the role of Member States in submitting proposals for the consideration of the International Law Commission,

Welcoming the holding of the International Law Seminar, and noting with appreciation the voluntary contributions made to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar,

Acknowledging the importance of facilitating the timely publication of the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission* and eliminating the backlog,

Stressing the usefulness of focusing and structuring the debate on the report of the International Law Commission in the Sixth Committee in such a manner that conditions are provided for concentrated attention to each of the main topics dealt with in the report and for discussions on specific topics,

Wishing to enhance further, in the context of the revitalization of the debate on the report of the International Law Commission, the interaction between the Sixth Committee as a body of governmental representatives and the Commission as a body of independent legal experts, with a view to improving the dialogue between the two bodies,

Welcoming initiatives to hold interactive debates, panel discussions and question time in the Sixth Committee, as envisaged in resolution 58/316 of 1 July 2004 on further measures for the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the International Law Commission on the work of its sixty-first session,[1] and recommends that the Commission continue its work on the topics in its current programme, taking into account the comments and observations of Governments, whether submitted in writing or expressed orally in debates in the Sixth Committee;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Law Commission for the work accomplished at its sixty-first session, in particular for the completion, on the first reading, of the draft articles on the topic "Responsibility of international organizations";

3. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their views on the various aspects involved in the topics on the agenda of the Commission, in particular on all the specific issues identified in chapter III of its report,[3] regarding:

(a) Responsibility of international organizations;

(b) Expulsion of aliens;

(c) Shared natural resources;

4. *Invites* Governments, within the context of paragraph 3 above, to provide information to the International Law Commission regarding practice with regard to the topic "Expulsion of aliens";

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[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/64/10), paras. 27-30.

5. *Draws the attention* of Governments to the importance for the International Law Commission of having their comments and observations by 1 January 2011 on the draft articles and commentaries on the topic "Responsibility of international organizations" adopted on first reading by the Commission at its sixty-first session;[4]

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission[5] and paragraphs 240 to 242 of the report of the International Law Commission,[1] and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session the options regarding additional support of the work of special rapporteurs;

7. *Invites* the International Law Commission to continue taking measures to enhance its efficiency and productivity and to consider making proposals to that end;

8. *Encourages* the International Law Commission to continue taking cost-saving measures at its future sessions without prejudice to the efficiency and effectiveness of its work;

9. *Takes note* of paragraph 244 of the report of the International Law Commission, and decides that the next session of the Commission shall be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 3 May to 4 June and from 5 July to 6 August 2010;

10. *Welcomes* the enhanced dialogue between the International Law Commission and the Sixth Committee at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, stresses the desirability of further enhancing the dialogue between the two bodies, and in this context encourages, inter alia, the continued practice of informal consultations in the form of discussions between the members of the Sixth Committee and the members of the Commission attending the sixty-fifth session of the Assembly;

11. *Encourages* delegations, during the debate on the report of the International Law Commission, to adhere as far as possible to the structured work programme agreed to by the Sixth Committee and to consider presenting concise and focused statements;

12. *Encourages* Member States to consider being represented at the level of legal adviser during the first week in which the report of the International Law Commission is discussed in the Sixth Committee (International Law Week) to enable high-level discussions on issues of international law;

13. *Requests* the International Law Commission to continue to pay special attention to indicating in its annual report, for each topic, any specific issues on which expressions of views by Governments, either in the Sixth Committee or in written form, would be of particular interest in providing effective guidance for the Commission in its further work;

14. *Takes note* of paragraphs 243 and 245 to 249 of the report of the International Law Commission with regard to cooperation and interaction with other bodies, and encourages the Commission to continue the implementation of article 16,

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[4] Ibid., para. 18.

[5] A/64/283.

paragraph (e), article 25 and article 26, paragraphs 1 and 2, of its statute in order to further strengthen cooperation between the Commission and other bodies concerned with international law, having in mind the usefulness of such cooperation;

15. *Notes* that consulting with national organizations and individual experts concerned with international law may assist Governments in considering whether to make comments and observations on drafts submitted by the International Law Commission and in formulating their comments and observations;

16. *Reaffirms* its previous decisions concerning the indispensable role of the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat in providing assistance to the International Law Commission, including in the preparation of memorandums and studies on topics on the agenda of the Commission;

17. *Approves* the conclusions reached by the International Law Commission in paragraph 232 of its report, and reaffirms its previous decisions concerning the documentation and summary records of the Commission;[6]

18. *Takes note* of paragraph 233 of the report of the International Law Commission and stresses the need to expedite the preparation of the summary records of the Commission;

19. *Also takes note* of paragraph 234 of the report of the International Law Commission and, without prejudice to the importance of ensuring necessary allocations in the regular budget, acknowledges the establishment by the Secretary-General of a trust fund to accept voluntary contributions so as to address the backlog relating to the *Yearbook of the International Law Commission*, and invites voluntary contributions to that end;

20. *Welcomes* the continuous efforts of the Codification Division to maintain and improve the website relating to the work of the International Law Commission;[7]

21. *Expresses the hope* that the International Law Seminar will continue to be held in connection with the sessions of the International Law Commission and that an increasing number of participants, in particular from developing countries, will be given the opportunity to attend the Seminar, and appeals to States to continue to make urgently needed voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Law Seminar;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the International Law Seminar with adequate services, including interpretation, as required, and encourages him to continue considering ways to improve the structure and content of the Seminar;

23. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to forward to the International Law Commission, for its attention, the records of the debate on the report of the Commission at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, together with such written statements as delegations may circulate in conjunction with their oral statements, and to prepare and distribute a topical summary of the debate, following established practice;

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[6] See resolutions 32/151, para. 10, and 37/111, para. 5, and all subsequent resolutions on the annual reports of the International Law Commission to the General Assembly.

[7] www.un.org/law/ilc.

24. *Requests* the Secretariat to circulate to States, as soon as possible after the conclusion of the session of the International Law Commission, chapter II of its report containing a summary of the work of that session, chapter III containing the specific issues on which the views of Governments would be of particular interest to the Commission and the draft articles adopted on either first or second reading by the Commission;

25. *Encourages* the International Law Commission to continue considering ways in which specific issues on which the views of Governments would be of particular interest to the Commission could be framed so as to help Governments to have a better appreciation of the issues on which responses are required;

26. *Recommends* that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly commence on 25 October 2010.